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# Australian Association of Jewish Studies

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## The Pedagogy of Teaching a Second Language University of Sydney – Israel Forum

**Speaker:** Professor Yael Ziv, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

During the University of Sydney's Stuvac Week, Professor Yael Ziv, visited the University of Sydney and participated in an intensive week of activities, including being one of the Humanities representatives at the University of Sydney – Israel Forum, "Shared Challenges,

Future Solutions,” which aimed to foster research between our university and leading Israeli researchers in all academic disciplines. Her visit was sponsored by the Sir Zelman Cowen Universities Fund, which supports academic exchange between the University of Sydney and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Professor Yael Ziv received her PhD in Linguistics from the University of Illinois and has been teaching courses in pragmatic theory, discourse analysis, information structure and the syntax-discourse interface with respect to specific syntactic structures at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem since 1976 in the departments of Linguistics and English. Her primary research area is the discourse characterisation of spoken Hebrew.



In the morning overview session during the University of Sydney - Israel Forum, Yona Gilead from the Department of Hebrew, Biblical & Jewish Studies introduced Professor Ziv to the audience and spoke about the synergies between the Department and Hebrew language pedagogy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Professor Ziv spoke next on “Studying a Spoken Tongue and Teaching a Modern Language in an Immigrant Society: the Case of Modern Hebrew.”

During the afternoon sessions Professor Ziv presented two workshops: The first, entitled: “**Teaching Language for academic purposes through activation of familiar genres,**” was held in conjunction with the SLC Teaching Day, coordinated by Dr Linda Tsung. This seminar was very well attended with approximately 30 academics. Yael’s presentation was extremely well received. Her presentation was followed by many questions and a lively discussion. Moreover, many academics commented on how applicable Yael’s research findings were to their research interests and, after the workshop, a number of SLC lecturers requested copies of her Power Point presentation.

The second, entitled ‘**Discourse markers - Discourse phenomena at the sentence level**’, was also very interesting. Whilst it attracted fewer attendees, all found the topic informative and interesting. Professor Suzanne Rutland, Yona Gilead from the Hebrew Biblical and Jewish Studies Department, and Neta Steigrad, Associate Lecturer in Teaching Classical Hebrew in the Faculty of Education, oversaw these seminars.

As a follow up to the Symposium, Yael presented a further two seminars:

The first, entitled: **Assessing/Dispelling claims about language – implications for teaching Hebrew**, was specifically geared for MH school teachers. Having Yael present a work shop to this group of educators is part of the USyd's ongoing pursuit of working closely with teachers in the Jewish Day schools; assisting to facilitate teachers' upgrading of their knowledge; and in doing so contributing back to the community. Yona Gilead oversaw this seminar.

The second, entitled: **Discourse markers - Discourse phenomena at the sentence level**, covered the same overall content as the Symposium's first afternoon workshop. It was presented to postgraduate students at the Faculty of Education. Approximately 25 people attended this seminar and the feedback was again very positive with several attendees asking for Yael's power-point slides to be made available to them. Neta Steigrad oversaw this seminar.

*Suzanne Rutland*

## **ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH STUDIES JEWISH IDENTITY IN A NEW WORLD**

### **OLD NEW JEWS: JEWISH IDENTITY IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

#### **THE DINA AND RON GOLDSCHLAGER FAMILY CONFERENCE ON CONTEMPORARY JEWISH LIFE**

Monash University's Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation is hosting the AAJS Annual Conference on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2012. It promises to be a fascinating and thought-provoking weekend.

The impressive line-up of keynote speakers includes Dr Daniel Gordis, Professor Samuel Heilman, Dr Bethamie Horowitz, Professor Andrew Markus, Professor Moshe Semyonov and Dr David Shneer.

The title borrows the Jewish idea of *Alt Neu* to depict the ongoing exchange of past and present, innovation and tradition. Papers and keynote addresses will examine Judaism and Jewish identity – their transmission, diversity and specificity in relation to national and global settings. The conference will look at how the Israel-Diaspora relationship is being remodelled; Jewish institutional life; the impact of new technologies; Judaism in an age of choice and hybrid identities; demographic trends and marriage patterns; population movements and scholarly constructs of ethnicity, identity and social cohesion.

The first day will feature keynote speakers and the second day will feature keynote speakers and parallel sessions of academic papers given by academics from around Australia, Scotland, England, Germany, Israel and Russia.

A number of public lectures are scheduled for the evenings following the conference. On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February, Dr Daniel Gordis will speak on "2048: Can the Jewish State Survive to the Age of 100 and Why Does it Matter?"

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, Dr David Shneer will give an academic seminar during the afternoon on “Through Soviet Eyes: Photography, War, and the Holocaust” and that same evening, together with Gregg Drinkwater, will speak about “Reading the Bible Through a Bent Lens: An Evening with the Editors of *Torah Queeries*”.

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February, Professor Samuel Heilman will speak about “Lubavitch, Messianism and the Denial of Death: What Menachem Mendel Schneerson Wrought.”

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, prior to the conference, Professor Bethamie Horowitz will present a full day workshop for community professionals. This is part of the Ros Smorgon Program in Jewish Communal Leadership.

More information about the conference, including registration details, is available from the conference website at <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/jewish-civilisation/news-and-events/old-new-jews/index.php> or by phoning (03)9903 5002.

## **Dead Sea Scrolls Conference University of Sydney-Israel Forum**

The Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies, in association with Mandelbaum House, organized a conference on the Dead Sea Scrolls in memory of Emeritus Professor Alan Crown, on the 31 October and the 1 November at Mandelbaum House at the University of Sydney. Alan was a former Head of the Department of Semitic Studies, the predecessor of Hebrew Biblical and Jewish Studies (and also Arabic and Islamic Studies) in SLC. The conference was convened by Ian Young and Shani Tzoref (a former departmental colleague who now works for the Israel Antiquities Authority), and ably facilitated by Naomi Winton of Mandelbaum House. In conjunction with this event, the library displayed the facsimile copies of the Scrolls it acquired on the advice of Alan Crown.

Our keynote speaker was Professor Emanuel Tov, former editor-in-chief of the Dead Sea Scrolls publication project. Emanuel and Ian also contributed to the Israel Research Forum on the first morning. Ian opened the Dead Sea Scrolls conference with reminiscences of Alan Crown as teacher and mentor, and his influence over scholarship in Sydney. This was followed by Emanuel Tov’s keynote address. This session had over 70 attendees.



The rest of the conference saw a further 15 papers, covering the full range of Dead Sea Scrolls scholarship. All sessions were well attended. “Thanks” to Qantas, however, two of our biggest name scholars were unable to attend, Professor William Loader stuck in Western Australia, and Professor Albert Baumgarten from Bar Ilan University, Israel, and his wife really getting to know Uluru! Nevertheless, discussion in both the sessions and at meal times was full of energy and enthusiasm, with Emanuel Tov being an absolute star, going out of his way to talk to everyone he could (even though many of the attendees were somewhat overawed by meeting this rock star of scholarship).

As a follow up to the conference Shani hosted Prof Tov and the recently arrived Prof Baumgarten in a session aimed at a more general audience interested in the Scrolls, at which 40 very appreciative people attended.

*Suzanne Rutland*

## **The Holocaust and Legacies of Race in the Postcolonial World, 1945 to the present.**

**To be held at the University of Sydney, 10-12 April 2012**

Call for Papers – extended deadline and bursaries

**REVISED DEADLINE 31 December 2011**

**We are pleased to announce the award of a number of travel bursaries thanks to the Worldwide Universities Network.**

**Awards of up to Australian Dollars 1000 are available with priority given to PhD students, early career researchers and those without access to funding. However, the awards are open to all. If you are applying for the bursary please make this clear and provide a supporting statement including an estimate of travel costs. Decisions on the allocating of the awards will be made in January 2012.**

This conference will explore in a comparative and multi-disciplinary framework how societies, cultures and political systems defined by legacies and on-going issues of ‘race’, racism and anti-racism responded to the Holocaust after the Second World War. It will also address the wider question of Holocaust memory in different national contexts.

What tensions (if any) emerged when countries with an imperial and often murderous history of racial exploitation under colonialism confronted the enormity of Nazi racial crimes? To what extent did the Nazi past inform politics, culture and society (including migration procedures of victims, bystanders and perpetrators)? How did, for example, the memory of the Final Solution sit alongside the formalisation of apartheid in South Africa, the continued support of a ‘white Australia’ policy and the discriminatory policy towards European Jewish Holocaust survivors, or the struggle for civil rights in the American south?

The conference will also look to explore how within this complex context, the Holocaust was confronted and imagined in cultural form, through art, film, literature, music

and television. It seeks to understand the similarities and differences in the creation of museums, memorials and educational initiatives in the colonial and postcolonial context, asking how the racialised past (and present) has been juxtaposed with and understood alongside the Holocaust.

In what ways did the Holocaust impact on the conceptualisation and articulation of racist and anti-racist politics in the post-war world?

How did people respond to Holocaust survivors in these countries, and what sorts of identities did they create for themselves?

How have ordinary people in these countries and the media responded to the Holocaust? How did the settled Jewish minorities of these countries respond to the Holocaust in the postwar era? Did they define themselves as part of 'white' society or as fellow victims or as both?

*Papers are especially welcome that deal with these issues with particular regard to Britain and the 'old' commonwealth (including Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand and South Africa), former European colonies in Africa and Latin America, the American South and South-east Asia.*

**Please send proposals, maximum of 250 words, and a brief cv by 31 December 2011 to Dr James Jordan ([jaj1@soton.ac.uk](mailto:jaj1@soton.ac.uk)). If you are applying for the bursary please make this clear and provide a supporting statement.**

Please note the change of date for this revised CFP so as to enable those delegates travelling from overseas to spend the Seder with their families prior to arrival. If you are staying in Sydney then we can arrange accommodation with a religious family for the Friday/Saturday after the conference, or for you to stay in a hotel near a synagogue and are then hosted for all meals. All food at the conference venues, Mandelbaum House and the Sydney Jewish Museum, is strictly kosher.

This conference is the first to be organised jointly by the Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies, University of Sydney, in conjunction with the Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/non-Jewish Relations, University of Southampton, and the Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research, University of Cape Town. The University of Cape Town will host a related conference on the theme of 'Jews, Colonialism and Post-Colonialism' in January 2013.

*Suzanne Rutland*

### **Karen Auerbach**

Karen Auerbach arrived at Monash from the United States in July to begin a three-year lectureship. Her main areas of research are in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Polish Jewish history and culture, Jewish life in Communist Eastern Europe, and the history of the Holocaust. She received a Ph.D. in modern Jewish history from Brandeis University in 2009 and recently completed a book manuscript titled *A Window on Warsaw: The Jewish Families of 16 Ujazdowskie Avenue after the Holocaust*, which is a micro history of ten families who were neighbors in an apartment building in Warsaw after the Second World War. Her new

research takes her to nineteenth-century Poland for a study of Jewish publishers of Polish literature, while she is completing a project on the dissemination of information among Jewish communities within Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe during the earliest stages of the Holocaust in 1941 and 1942.



Karen has held postdoctoral research fellowships at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and Yad Vashem in Israel as well as teaching positions at Brown and Virginia Tech universities in the United States and the University of Southampton in England. Her research has appeared in journals and edited volumes in English and Polish. Recent articles include “ ‘Nusekh Poyln?’ Communism, Publishing, and Paths to Polishness. Among the Jewish Families of 16 Ujazdowskie Avenue,” which was published in *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry* in November 2011; and “Memory of the Holocaust in Recent Polish Historiography,” which appeared in the *Association for Jewish Studies Review* in April 2011.

Before pursuing her doctorate, Karen was a staff journalist for daily newspapers in the United States. Her interest in Poland began with a year-long stint as a freelance writer in Warsaw, where she wrote about contemporary Jewish life for the New York-based *Forward* newspaper and other publications.

### Avril Alba

In January 2012 Dr Avril Alba will take up the position of Roth Lecturer in Holocaust and Jewish Studies at the University of Sydney. Avril originally hails from Adelaide, where she undertook her undergraduate degrees in Arts and Music at the Adelaide University. After completing her Honours degree in Political Science she received a scholarship to embark on a Master of Theological Studies degree at Harvard University. What was originally planned as a two-year stint became a seven-year odyssey as, after completing her studies, Avril stayed in Boston to work as an educator at Harvard Hillel.

Both her formal studies and her professional experience in the United States were enormously influential with regard to Avril’s development as a scholar and a teacher. The opportunity to study and work with outstanding academics and communal leaders in the North American context left an indelible mark. To this day, Avril’s scholarship is deeply informed by the creativity and commitment she encountered in the American academy and American Jewish community. Particularly inspiring was the dedication of many of her academic mentors to integrate the rigorous academic study of religion with the wisdom and insight of the Jewish textual tradition.

Upon returning to Australia in 2002 Avril took up the position of Education Director at the Sydney Jewish Museum. Throughout her nine years at the museum she was fortunate to work with experts in Holocaust history and education both in Australia and overseas, in order to grow and develop the museum’s educational programs. In 2007-08 she was also

afforded the opportunity to work as the Project Director/co-Curator of the museum's permanent exhibition, *Culture and Continuity: Journey through Judaism*.



It was always Avril's long-term goal to undertake doctoral work and she began her studies in 2006 at Sydney University with Professor A. Dirk Moses (History) and Professor Konrad Kwiet (Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies). Her thesis, *Redeeming the Holocaust: Uncovering the Sacred Narratives of the Secular Museum* concentrated on the largely unexplored 'sacred' aspects of memorial museums. The research brought together Avril's interests and expertise in Holocaust history and memory, museums and religious studies. She was awarded her PhD in May 2011.

The appointment to the Roth Lectureship in Sydney University's Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies is, for Avril, the opportunity of a lifetime—a chance to integrate her research interests and skills with a passionate commitment to teaching and a desire to contribute to an already dynamic Department's growth in each of these areas.

Professor **Konrad Kwiet** has retired from his half-time position in the Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies at the University of Sydney as the Roth Professor of Holocaust Studies. He will, however, continue teaching graduate students on a part-time basis. We congratulate Professor Kwiet on his appointment as Pratt Professor of Holocaust Studies, knowing how much his students will value being able to continue to draw from his expertise and generous sharing of his knowledge. He will also be a great support to Dr Avril Alba, the new full-time Roth Lecturer in Holocaust Studies, as she settles into her new position. Our gratitude goes to the Pratt Foundation for their support of a great scholar and an outstanding educator in a key field of Modern Jewish Studies.

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## Membership Fees

Fees are current from 1 January 2012–31 December 2012, include the *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies* published annually (early in the next year), AAJS Newsletter (online) book discounts, and discounted registration fee for the AAJS annual February conference).

**Benefactor : \$250**

Regular: \$60 (Aus)

Pensioner/ Full-time Student: \$25 (Aus)

Institutional: \$70 (Aus)

Overseas: \$80 (Aus)

All correspondence to: AAJS, C/-Archive of Australian Judaica, Rare Books, Fisher Library, University of Sydney 2006



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*Newsletter edited by Anna Rosenbaum with Marianne Dacy*



*Thirteenth century clock tower, old Prague Square*